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## Local and Regional Historical Societies

Florida Historical Society  
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## LOCAL AND REGIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

### THE JACKSONVILLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the Annual Meeting of the Jacksonville Historical Society on May 12, James A. Austin was reelected president, Dr. Raymond H. King first vice president, Karl Bardin second vice president, Miss Martha Lee Segui recording secretary, Miss Florence Morrish corresponding secretary, Miss Dena Snodgrass treasurer, Miss Audrey Broward archivist, and Herbert Lamson historian.

Two papers prepared for the meeting and relating to Jacksonville history were read. Mrs. Bessie Solee Sanderson told of her own experiences in the Jacksonville fire of 1901, and J. K. David, who moved to Jacksonville in 1899 from Syria, related the story of families from the Near East.

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### THE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA

This Association has had a full season of meetings and marker dedications. On March 7 a plaque was unveiled marking the site of the Biscayne House of Refuge. Speaking before a large attendance were President Adam G. Adams, Chairman Oliver Griswold, Mayor Harold Shapiro of Miami Beach, and Captain S. P. Swicegood, Commander of the Coast Guard District.

The 49th Program Meeting of the Association was on April 20 commemorating 75 years of progress in the development of the electric lamp.

The **President's News Letter** has appeared regularly. The last issue, the sixth, was a report by President Adams on the Association's history and accomplishments, with plans for the future which are definite and noteworthy.

The 50th Program Meeting was held on June 8 together with the Annual Meeting of the Association. The principal address was by Dr. Arnold B. Grobman, Director of the Florida State

Museum, on "A Contemporary Approach to Florida History," and a large collection of Indian relics were shown.

The election of officers resulted in: president Thomas W. Hagan, vice president Ernest G. Gearhart Jr., 2nd vice president Robert M. McKay, executive secretary Justin P. Havee, recording secretary Donald J. Wellenkamp, corresponding secretary Virginia Wilson, treasurer Edwin C. Bishop, librarian Mrs. Andrew J. Moulds, editor of *Tequesta* Charlton W. Tebeau.

#### THE ST. AUGUSTINE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Much of the *Progress Report* for 1953 of the St. Augustine Historical Society is interesting to other Florida societies. Two research projects in progress are: a study of St. Augustine architecture, and one of specific sites and buildings for an extensive marker program. "To implement the program the Society has employed a scholar competent in the fields of archaeology, history, and interpretation. We have also completed a detailed plan for a museum to form a narrative of St. Augustine history. We have acquired a number of excellent books on Spanish Colonial Architecture. . . We have also acquired from The Library of Congress additional volumes of the *Escripturas* covering wills, deeds and other legal documents of the period 1817-1821, which Miss Emily Wilson has indexed and partially translated."

The St. Augustine Preservation and Restoration Association has undertaken the restoration of the Llambias House which has been deeded in trust to the City of St. Augustine, a project in which the Society is aiding and will take over its maintenance.

The Fornells House which is owned by the Society has been restored in order to recapture a character long lost. This is the third historic house to receive preservative treatment by the Society.

#### THE TALLAHASSEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Tallahassee Historical Society was a joint host of the

very successful Annual Meeting of the Florida Historical Society on March 26, 27. Three tours were arranged by them for visitors the day previous: through the Capitol, to other historic points in Tallahassee, and to Natural Bridge Battle Ground. Several of the papers read at the program sessions were by members of the Tallahassee Society, one of which is included in this issue of the *Quarterly*.